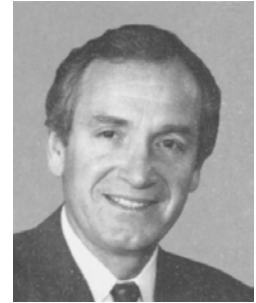


SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

HARKIN, Thomas R. (Tom) (Democrat)
Junior Senator from Iowa
Elected (1984) to US Senate; reelected
Present term expires January 2009



BACKGROUND

Born: Cumming, Iowa - 19 November 1939

Home: Ames, Iowa

Marital status: Married (Ruth) - 2 children

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Iowa State U., B.S. 1962; Catholic U., J.D. 1972

Military: US Navy, 1962-7; USNR, 1968-74, Lcdr, pilot; ferried aircraft in Vietnam

Profession: Attorney

Political: Staff member, House Select Cmte on US Involvement in SE Asia, 1970. Defeated for Congress, 1972. US House, 1975-84 (5th District). Succeeded Sen Roger Jepsen (R) whom he defeated. Candidate for 1992 Dem Pres nom (w/drew). Reelected in 1996 with 52% of the vote and in 2002 with 54%.

Sen Harkin has been called a "New Deal" liberal. Strong defender of organized labor.

In the 107th Congress, expressed disappointment that the conference cmte on the FY 02 Commerce-Justice-State Appns bill removed the provision that would allow WWII POWs, who served as slave laborers, from being able to bring civil action against Japanese corporations. Drew attention to a provision in the DoD Appns bill that would require workers at defense nuclear facilities to be notified if they have been harmed by radioactive or toxic exposures at these facilities so that they can better discuss treatment with their health care providers. Noted that this amdt applies to the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant and a second amdt provides \$1 million for a health study for workers at the Army plant. Intro a bill to establish a US trade ban with Burma. Drew attention to a provision in the farm bill lifting trade restrictions with Cuba for agricultural products. Believed that agricultural products will provide a better means of lessening our dependency on the Middle East. Praised Pakistan as a steadfast ally. Intro S. 2632, the Forgotten Widows' Benefit Equity Act. Provisions of his bill, S. 2789, to expand the tax-exempt status for Veteran's organizations, were included in S. 2816, the Foreign and Armed Services Tax Fairness Act. Introduced S. 2134, the Terrorism Victim's Access to Compensation Act. Joined other Members in an effort to slow Army's privatization of its repair depots, arsenals, and ammunition plants and the jobs of more than 15,000 Army civilian employees. Participated in hearings on Homeland Security and Defense. Sen Harkin's bioterrorism package was included in the DoD Appns bill. Alleged that Lockheed Martin Space Systems has created fictitious losses on the sale of some defense facilities in a scheme to reap windfall profits at taxpayers' expense. At his request, GAO examined the scope of over- and under-payments to defense contractors. Argued that the Air Force must change the way pilots and assigned and classified. Following a DoD report critical of the Army Corps of Engineers, stated that he wanted to ensure accurate information is collected in corps studies.

Additional: Wife headed the Overseas Private Invest Corp

Affiliations: SANE; Vietnam Era Vets in Congress

AF Bases: Des Moines MAP (ANG); Sioux Gateway Apt (ANG)

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